

Thursday, April 12, 1973
Salt Lake City, Utah

PRESIDENT

President Nixon sent Congress today a message dealing with unemployment compensation. In it making a concession to the recent demands of organized labor. The President urging an amendment to existing law - specifying that "every eligible insured worker, when unemployed, must be paid a benefit equal to at least fifty percent of his average weekly wage." Also, urging broader coverage - to include migrant farm workers, and said he - "especially for those who need unemployment protection."

The President going on to note - that a record eighty three point nine million Americans now have jobs - adding, however, "a sunny day - remains the best time of day to fix a leaky roof." "This legislation would bring genuine improvement - he continued - "in the lives of millions of those on whom the nation depends most heavily - our working men and women."

WATERGATE

Elsewhere in Washington - a Federal grand jury was continuing its investigation into the Watergate affair but moving its hearings to more secluded quarters - the better to protect the anonymity of future witnesses. At the same time former Attorney General John Mitchell again denies that he was in any way implicated in the Watergate incident. Lest there be any doubt Mitchell flatly asserting: "If I had known about Watergate I would have stopped it."

PENTAGON

From the Pentagon - a brief announcement today; spelling the end of the line for the families of American service men - still listed as missing in action. Dr. Roger Shields of the Pentagon's P O W task force saying: "We have no ~~any~~ indication at this moment that there are any Americans alive in Indo China. "

Dr. Shields adding that today's statement was aimed at refuting rumors that hundreds of Americans are still being held in Laos. Such rumors, said he - can only "do the families of the missing a dis-service."

BEIRUT

In the Middle East - Beirut - Arab passions were again running rampant today. Tens of thousands of mourners - joining a funeral procession for three guerrilla leaders and six other Palestinians - all of whom were killed - as you know - by Israeli raiders. The mourners interspersing their tears with cries for ~~revenge~~ retaliation. Shouting over and over: "With blood, we shall revenge you."

Similar demonstrations - with Anti-U S overtones - were also held today in Damascus, Kuwait, Alexandria and Cairo. The latter featuring cries such as: Arab people - sweep away and destroy American interests."

STATE

Here at home - an angry response. The U S State Department categorically denying any part in the Beirut attack. Further charging "a deliberate ~~xxxx~~ anti-American campaign by the Fedayen - using the old technique of the big lie," in the hope "that if they make the lie big enough and repeat it often enough - eventually people come to believe it."

Spokesman Charles Bray also criticizing Arab governments for picking up and repeating guerrilla charges in their own official broadcasts. Before giving credence to these irresponsible and completely false charges - said he - "others in the area should reflect not only on our repeated unequivocal denials but on the possible consequences of lending further credence to these lies."

U N FOLLOW STATE

**And now the latest - the U N Security Council
meeting in emergency session - to consider the mid-
East crisis.**

SOUTH HAMPTON

The most expensive safety check of a British ship since World War Two was undertaken today at Southampton, England. British sabotage and explosives experts - swarming all over the Queen Elizabeth two checking it ~~out~~ from stem to stern.

All ~~this~~ this in preparation for a voyage to Israel , starting Sunday. The Queen Elizabeth Two passenger list including seventeen hundred Jews; most of them - Americans -- ~~bound~~ bound for Israel / to help celebrate the Jewish State's twenty-fifth anniversary.

The Q E Two thus an obvious target; ~~observed the~~ ~~Grand Line~~. Indeed, the ship's crew - demanding and getting so-called "danger" pay. Cunard stressing, however - that every precaution is being ~~is~~ taken. Adding that armed guards and Bomb disposal experts - will maintain a constant vigil throughout.

MOSCOW

In Moscow - Armand Hammer does it again. Armand Hammer - an American age-seventy-four, is chairman of Occidental Petroleum. But years ago he and his brother Victor made a deal with the Kremlin to sell some of the almost ~~priceless~~ priceless Russian crown jewels and other things that belonged to the Czars. [↑] His dealings with the Soviet Union date back to Nineteen Twenty-Four when he made his first contract with none other than Lenin himself to manufacture lead pencils. They had none.

[↑] Now - the biggest deal of all. Armand Hammer signing an agreement today to provide the Soviets with four billion dollars worth of ~~about~~ chemical fertilizers over the next twenty years. The Russians agreeing to pay for this with four billion worth of Soviet goods.

[↑] This pact dwarfs ^s ~~ing~~ all previous U S and Russian trade agreements. In the words of at least one Kremlinologist - an "historic day" and a major triumph for Armand Hammer - a most persuasive man!

NEW DELHI

A convocation of the most venerated scholars in all of Hindustan is currently in progress at New Delhi. Some two thousand pundits coming together - for the first meeting of its kind held in centuries. From dawn to dusk for nine days running - seeking "the light and the way;" doing it by chanting verses and hymns - from the Vedas, the sacred book of Hindustism. One of their best known chants perhaps expressing a universal truth is this: "Like the sharp edge of a razor is the path Narrow it is - and difficult to tread."

CANNES

From Cannes, France comes an announcement that a Soviet version of Mark Twain's Huckleberry Finn - will be entered this year in the Cannes Film Festival. While over here the Readers Digest is running a series of full page newspaper ads citing the critical acclaim accorded to its new version of "Tom Sawyer." The Digest adding that "thousands of families are rediscovering how much fun it is to go to the movies, again."

SHREVEPORT

This next - from Shreveport, Louisiana. The way
police tell it - a local woman hearing a knock at her
front door. When she opened it - finding standing there
an elderly man and a Shetland pony both - totally
nude. The man explaining - he had been trying to
sell his pony; ~~was~~ with two prospective purchasers
accompanying him to a nearby field to test the ^{tiny} steed
except that they robbed him clothes and all. ^{For him a} shocking
experience. ^{and I suspect for} ~~for him and no doubt~~ her, too.

FORT LAUDERDALE

Speaking of -X rated robberies - ~~one~~ another of the same is reported today from Ft. Lauderdale, Florida. Three armed hold-up men getting thirty-seven dollars from the cashier at an x-rated movie; also, taking an additional two hundred bucks from a man waiting in line to buy a ticket.

By the time police arrived though the big loser had already disappeared without even leaving his name. ~~Police explaining he was~~ apparently too embarrassed.